

USG Interiors, Inc./Thermafiber Site Public Participation Plan

*Prepared by:
Washington Department of Ecology
Southwest Regional Office, Toxics Cleanup Program
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Introduction

The 9.4-acre USG Interiors site is located at 2301 Taylor Way, on the southwest shore of the Hylebos Waterway, in Tacoma, Washington. USG owned and operated a mineral fiber production plant at the site between 1959 and 1996. The property is now owned by the Port of Tacoma. Between 1959 and 1973, ASARCO slag was used as one of the raw materials for manufacturing the mineral fiber insulation. ASARCO slag contains high concentrations of metals (such as arsenic, antimony, lead, copper, and zinc). By-products and wastes from the production process were deposited on the site, resulting in contaminated soils and ground water. Since 1995, studies of groundwater and soils have been done and interim cleanup actions have occurred to remove contaminated soils from the property, however, soil and groundwater contamination are still present, and a complete Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study have not been done.

The Washington State Department of Ecology, USG Corporation, and the Port of Tacoma have agreed to a Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA, Chapter 70.105D RCW) order to complete a remedial investigation and a feasibility study (RI/FS) of metals-contaminated soil and groundwater at the USG Interiors site (also known as Thermafiber). The agreed order is a legal document agreed to between Ecology and potentially liable persons (PLPs), to ensure that proposed activities are conducted in a timely way, in agreement with MTCA and other applicable laws and regulations.

More information about the site's history and contamination is included in the Agreed Order (No. DE 3405) for the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS).

What is a Public Participation Plan?

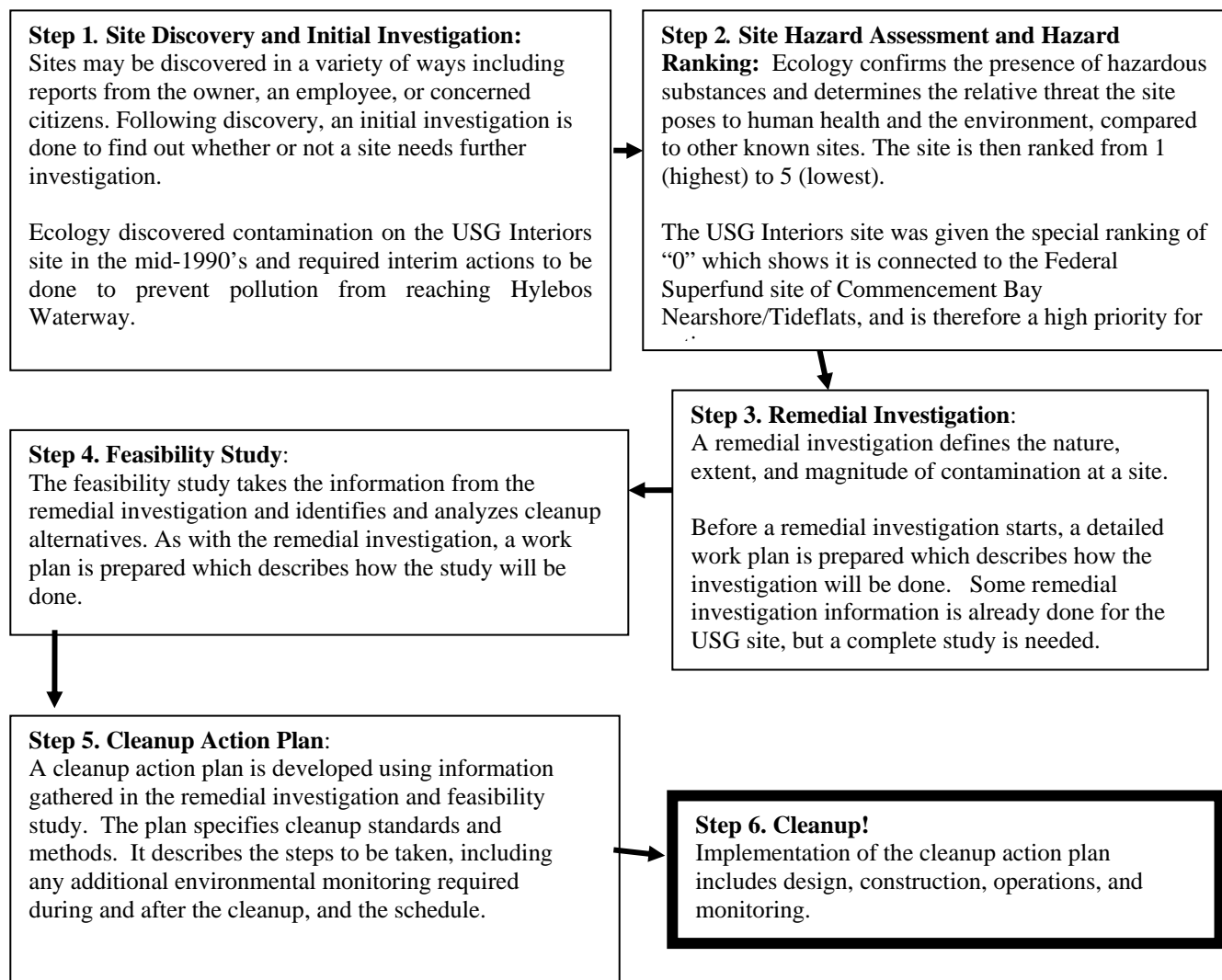
Under Washington's Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA, Chapter 70.15D RCW), the public is guaranteed meaningful opportunities to learn about and provide input on important cleanup decisions before they are made. Ecology's goal is to encourage public understanding of and participation in the investigation and cleanup of the USG Interiors/Thermafiber site through a variety of activities. This plan describes how the public will be kept informed and involved. This plan may need to change as the investigation and cleanup moves forward. If big changes are made to this plan, the public will be invited to review and comment on the changes.

Public Participation Grants Available

Grants may be available to neighborhood committees, non-profits, and other groups near the site. These funds may be used to provide additional public involvement, to receive technical assistance, and/or enhance the public's understanding of the cleanup process. For more information, contact Kathy Seel at (360) 407-6061 or ksee461@ecy.wa.gov, or visit Ecology's Solid Waste and Financial Assistance Program website: www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/swfa/grants.html

Steps in the Cleanup Process

The Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) defines each step of the cleanup process to protect human health and the environment. The chart below describes each step.



Some steps described in the chart include "agreed orders" or "consent decrees". These are agreements between Ecology and the parties responsible for cleanup of the pollution. In addition to the steps in the chart, "interim actions" may be taken during steps 1 through 5

(the investigation) to reduce or eliminate pollution that poses an immediate threat to human health or the environment. Some interim actions have already occurred on the USG Site.

The cleanup process is complex. Issues often arise that require more attention or evaluation, and may lead to changes in the steps or schedule. Every effort will be made to keep the public well-informed of changes.

Milestones and Public Involvement Opportunities

Key actions and public participation opportunities expected for the USG site are listed below.

Milestones and Public Involvement Opportunities for the USG Interiors Site	
MILESTONE	ESTIMATED DATE
Draft Agreed Order, including work plan for supplemental Remedial Investigation	August, 2006
Public Comment Requested: Public notice provided by Fact Sheet, Site Register Notice, Legal Ad	August, 2006
Final Agreed Order issued, work authorized to begin	September, 2006
Final Remedial Investigation Report/Feasibility Study. Notice of availability of RI/FS published in Ecology's site register and sent to interested parties.	By or before December, 2007
Development of Cleanup Action Plan	To be negotiated depending upon results of RI/FS.

Public Participation Tools to Be Used

Ecology will use a variety of tools to inform the public of the investigation and cleanup of the site. The tools to be used are described below. This list of tools may change as more is learned about the site.

Formal Public Comment Period: The public will be asked to provide comment on key decisions and actions related to the site. The public will be invited to comment at specific points during the investigation and cleanup and will have at least 30 days to provide comment. Comments will be accepted in writing (by letter or e-mail), or by phone.

Responsiveness Summary: After every public comment period, Ecology will review all comments received and may respond in a written responsiveness summary. The summary would then be made available to the public at the information repositories listed below.

Information Repositories: Documents and other printed materials will be made available to the public at two convenient locations near the site. Printed materials will be placed at the

repositories listed below during comment periods and will remain there for the duration of the cleanup process. Ecology also can provide copies of documents upon request for a small fee.

Tacoma Public Library, 1102 Tacoma Ave., Tacoma, WA, (253) 591-5666

Citizens for A Healthy Bay, 917 Pacific Ave. Suite 100, Tacoma, WA 98402, (253) 383-2429

Washington State Department of Ecology, SW Regional Office, Toxics Cleanup Program 300 Desmond Drive, Olympia, (360) 407-6365

Site Register and Public Events Calendar: Ecology's Toxics Cleanup Program will use its bimonthly *Site Register* and web-based *Public Involvement Calendar* to announce all public meetings and comment periods related to the investigation and cleanup of the site. To receive a copy of the *Site Register*, please contact Linda Thompson at (360) 407-6069 or Ltho461@ecy.wa.gov. Copies also are available on the Ecology website at www.ecy.wa.gov/biblio/site_reg.html. Ecology's *Public Involvement Calendar* may be found at www.ecy.gov.

Public Meetings: Public meetings may be held to share information or hear public comment when an issue is complex or there is a high level of interest in the community. Fliers, articles or display ads in the Tacoma News Tribune, and other methods will be used to well-publicize the event if a public meeting is scheduled.

Mailing List: Ecology's Toxics Cleanup Program has developed a mailing list for sites within the Tacoma tideflats and sites related to Commencement Bay. Ecology will update the list as needed. Please contact Joyce Mercuri (360) 407-6260, or jmer461@ecy.wa.gov to be added to or removed from the mailing list.

Fact and Focus Sheets: Fact and focus sheets for the site may be used to inform the public of meetings, comment opportunities on key decisions and actions, and other important activities. These brief fliers will be:

- mailed to key stakeholders, including property owners and residents close to the site
- made available at the repositories listed above; and
- posted on Ecology's website:
www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/brumfield/brumfield_hp.htm

Notices: Legal or display ads announcing each public comment period or meeting will be placed in the Tacoma News Tribune. Each notice will be published before the comment period begins or a meeting is held.

News Releases: Ecology may issue news releases to the media on major milestones, significant events, and accomplishments related to the site.

Contacts

For project-related questions, public participation questions, or mailing list changes, please contact Ecology's project manager:

Joyce Mercuri, SWRO Toxics Cleanup Program

PO Box 47775, Olympia, WA 98504-4775

Phone: (360) 407-6260 (voice)

For TTY, please call 711 or 1-800-833-6388

E-mail: Jmer461@ecy.wa.gov